

Claims

1. A content distribution method for making a reservation to a reservation control apparatus for the use of a distribution server that receives content sent from a distributor terminal apparatus via a network and carries out stream distribution of said content to a client terminal apparatus via the network, sending said content from said distributor terminal apparatus to said distribution server based on said reservation and thereby carrying out content distribution, said content distribution method comprising:

a reservation requesting step of sending reservation request information including a desired service time to distribute content using said distribution server and restriction information on restrictions of the content receivers from said distributor terminal apparatus to said reservation control apparatus via the network;

a content transmitting step of transmitting, when the reservation for the use of said distribution server during said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted, the content from said distributor terminal apparatus to said distribution server via the network to carry out a content distribution based on said accepted reservation;

a judging step of judging, when said client terminal apparatus requests said distribution server to distribute content via the network, whether the distribution request of said client terminal apparatus should be accepted or not based on said restriction information; and

a distributing step of carrying out a stream distribution, when the distribution request of said client terminal apparatus is accepted, of the content sent from said distributor terminal apparatus from said distribution server to said client terminal apparatus via the network.

2. The content distribution method according to Claim 1, further comprising

a browsing judging step of judging, when the reservation for the use of said distribution server during said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted, whether content distribution program information about content distribution based on said reservation should be made browsable or not based on said restriction information; and

a storing step of storing, when it is judged that said content distribution program information should be made browsable, said content distribution program information in a predetermined storage area of said reservation control apparatus in a manner browsable via the network.

3. The content distribution method according to Claim 1, wherein

when said restriction information includes information that a distribution request is accepted only for a client terminal apparatus authenticated through authentication processing using a password, said judging step judges whether the distribution request should be accepted or not based on the password sent from said client terminal apparatus.

4. The content distribution method according to Claim 1, further comprising

an authentication information transmitting step of transmitting, when said restriction information includes information indicating the contact address of the client user of the client terminal apparatus for which a content distribution is accepted, authentication information to said contact address of the client user via the network, and wherein

in said judging step, it is judged whether the authentication information sent from said client terminal apparatus matches the authentication information sent in said authentication information transmitting step or not and accepts the distribution request only when the two authentication information pieces match.

5. A reservation control apparatus that controls reservations for live distributions of content using a distribution server that carries out stream distributions of said content to a client terminal apparatus via a network, said reservation control apparatus comprising:

receiving means for receiving reservation request information including a desired service time for a content distribution using said distribution server and restriction information about restrictions on said content receivers sent from a distributor terminal apparatus requesting a live distribution of content via the network;

storing means for storing, when it is judged that said content distribution program information should be made browsable, said content distribution program information in a predetermined storage area of said reservation control apparatus in a manner browsable via the network.

6. A program storage medium storing a program to be executed by a reservation control apparatus that controls reservations for live distributions of content using a distribution server that carries out a stream distribution of said content to a client terminal apparatus via a network, said program comprising:

reception processing that receives reservation request information including a desired service time for a content distribution and restriction information about restrictions on said content receivers sent from a distributor terminal apparatus requesting a live distribution of content using said distribution server via the network;

browsing judgment processing that judges, when the reservation for a content distribution using said distribution server during said desired service time included in said reservation request information is accepted, whether content

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distribution program information about content distribution based on said reservation should be made browsable or not based on said restriction information; and

storing processing that stores, when it is judged that said content distribution program information should be made browsable, said content distribution program information in a predetermined storage area of said reservation control apparatus in a manner browsable via the network.